

The Evening Herald.

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A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY.

DIFFICULTIES encountered in fixing tax valuations for 1915 upon railroads, livestock and other classes of property, heretofore fixed by the state board of equalization, calls attention again to the almost unparalleled expression of confidence which a majority of the voters of New Mexico at the recent election gave to the members of the next New Mexico legislature; and likewise to the heavy responsibility placed upon them.

A majority of the people voted to adopt the constitutional amendment which abolished the board of equalization, the only check of any kind upon the legislature, in connection with the taxing authority. At the same time, this majority elected a substantial if not a two-thirds majority of Republicans to the house of representatives thus supplementing the two-thirds majority of Republicans in the state senate, and giving to the Republicans absolute and unlimited power to provide any system of taxation for this state which it may see fit. There are few instances in the history of representative government in which the people have placed themselves and their immediate personal affairs so wholly in the hands of their representatives. The legislature may do exactly as it pleases with our taxation system. It can give us a system wise or unwise, just or unjust. It has it in its power to make the present deplorable situation infinitely worse, or to give the state a tremendous forward shove on the highroad of prosperity and development.

Open top of this popular expression of confidence comes yesterday's action by the assessors of the state, who, having been advised by the attorney general that it is mandatory upon them to fix valuations, since there is no other power, still refuse to do so and leave the fixing of the 1915 valuations up to the legislature. Clearly the people and the people's officials wish to leave this whole vital matter of our taxation in the hands of the legislature.

In view of the situation outlined above, it is clear that no legislature in our whole history as territory and state has had such confidence reposed in it, or so heavy a responsibility placed upon it. No legislative action in the past has been so important as the action of the coming legislature upon our taxation system will be. The coming legislature can and will provide either a good system of taxation or a bad one. It will head the state toward prosperity or the scrap heap.

The whole burden and the whole responsibility will rest upon the Republican party; for its control of the legislature will be practically absolute.

It is difficult to believe that in the face of such an expression of public confidence and before such a responsibility any interest save that of unselfish, clean, aggressive interest for the common welfare can prevail.

It is difficult to believe that powerful private interests, acting through political bosses can prove effective in the face of such a situation. Among American public men great responsibility always has tended to produce responsible and unselfish action. Reports that private interests intend to control this legislature, through the Republican state machine, and shape our taxation legislation to the end of their own "protection" should not be believed too readily.

The Herald's refusal to accept the many rumors of contemplated efforts to exploit this legislature and through it the people and the state, by large private interests, is based upon this belief that a situation which so powerfully calls for unselfish, honest action will receive that kind of treatment. We believe it best to wait for the evidence and hope for the best.

THE PLACE FOR WAR NEWS.

A SENSITIVE, tender-hearted person writes to a Philadelphia paper to urge that more cheerful things than war news be placed on the front page of the daily papers. Headlines on war news should be reduced to the very minimum, the ingenious writer says, and the story, with all its horrors, placed on an inside page.

The argument advanced in favor of this move is that, with only agreeable matters to confront them first each day readers would be put into a state of mind that would benefit them morally, physically and financially. "If you will give a man something pleasant to meet his first glance, both morning and evening," declares the would-be reformer of the press, "he is better able to perform a day's work, meet with trying conditions with better grace and brighter hopes, than if at first glance you shock him with something distressing and terrible."

Probably this person, who represents a considerable class, does not suspect that he is a humorist, nor does he understand that the province of a newspaper is to publish the news, whether it be pleasant or unpleasant. Stories of battles and suffering are not agreeable reading, but while the great European conflict is the tremendous event of the world which it is likely to continue to be for many months to come, those stories go on the front page even at the cost of shocking the people who would like always to smile.

If burying war news on an inside page with inconspicuous headlines would abate the war itself, every editor in the land would instantly resign with all the skill at his command.

ARIZONA'S NEW LAWS.

OUR neighbor, Arizona, has an interesting set of new laws, adopted by the people at the November election. They seem to have been desired ardently by a considerable majority of the people; and they appear to have been drawn, whether with or without intent, in ways calculated to cause the largest amount of trouble with the least amount of good return.

The prohibition amendment, carried by a large majority, has been passed upon three distinct grounds of violations of the constitution of the United States. One of these attacks is being brought in the name of churchmen who contend that it prohibits the use of wine in the communion service.

The anti-alien law has been found in direct conflict with treaty obligations of this nation. The idea that a state had anything to do with national treaty rights appears utterly to have escaped the notice of the framers of this law, which also is alleged to be a violation of the constitution of the United States.

The popular vote in Arizona was strongly in favor of capital punishment, yet Governor Hunt, by a series of rapid fire executive proclamations managed to remove the noose from the necks of all Arizona's unusually fine collection of murderers, before proclaiming capital punishment in effect.

The mother's pension law was adopted enthusiastically, while at the same time the county hospitals, in effect county poor farms, were abolished. Thus Arizona finds herself in the middle of winter with large numbers of homeless poor on her hands and with no adequate provision for their care, while there is also no provision for carrying out the terms of the pension act, pending specific action by the legislature.

Aside from these few details, Arizona's interesting program of legislation placed in effect by the sovereign voter, appears to have worked out quite well.

ADOPTING BELGIAN CHILDREN.

A BELGIAN priest in this country has effectively checked the movement which had been proposed to bring Belgian children here for American adoption. His reasons have proved convincing.

He says that Belgium is now a dispersed country, with the death rate unknown, but not expected to be very large in comparison with other death rates.

It was the custom, he says, for the invading army to range the men up on one side of the village square, the women and children on the other, and to march the men off. In this way there are families of which all members are undoubtedly alive, but the men are prisoners, and the separated mothers and children are either still wandering about in Holland or England—so that, though they are now dispersed and know nothing of each other's whereabouts, there is prospect of reunion later on. He says that even now, in England and Holland, the scattered fragments of families are being brought together as rapidly as conditions permit.

To enter upon wholesale adoption of Belgian children now, he says, would be to finally separate families which, later on, will have a chance of reunion; and he would wait until all the accounts are made up before making disposition of the little ones.

There will doubtless be enough orphans for the laudable and kindly proposal which was made in America, but it will be obvious to everyone that if a child's parents are living, or one of them, transportation across

the sea would make for separations that never could be remedied.

And if this matter of separating families were not enough, there is another reason why we should not be adopting Belgian or any other foreign children. The struggle to provide a semblance of a happy Christmas for the children of the poor, the orphans and the homeless, now going on in every city in this nation, large and small, should be enough to convince us where our first duty lies in this matter of child welfare. Let us look out for the homeless and suffering and neglected children of America first.

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CHRISTMAS PRESENT STORE

Panorama of the Indians of New Mexico showing industries, dances, costumes, villages, etc. 50 beautiful cards in fine album only 75¢; two dollars for \$1.25.

John Lee Clarke
Incorporated.
Indian Goods and Souvenirs
OPEN EVERY NIGHT

element of our foreign-born population is noted. The little house in the country was built from the young man's savings and a large part of the furnishings came from the young woman's savings from her earnings of ten years as a house servant. They were good things, too—substantial furniture and real silver. Industry and thrift will make this couple comfortably well off in time.

A city dentist, thirty-two years old, moved his family into a home of their own in the suburbs during the past summer. He has been practicing his profession for almost ten years, but the very substantial cash-down payment he was able to make on his home did not come entirely from his savings, because quite a good deal of it was profit on a previous real estate transaction. However, it was his habit of saving that put him in the way of getting that profit. For a number of years he had been putting a large part of his savings into the purchase of a valuable corner lot, drawing out a certain sum from his savings account every six months to make the required payments on his contract. Last spring he sold the lot at a very good profit and thus was able to acquire ownership of his home, partly through his own thrift and good judgment, and partly by the aid of the "unearned increment" of the well-located real estate in a growing city.—T. D. MacGregor.

SHIPS Shower Shells on Seashore is the way one fast thinking beau-writer wrote it. He didn't have to speak it.

REDUCING the number of state employees is to be the program for Colorado's legislature. There will be a lively session in Colorado.

A LOT OF PEOPLE who sympathize sincerely and loudly with the Belgians haven't had time to clean the last snow fall off their sidewalks.

SCENE SHIFTERS in the war theaters would get better returns on their labor by forming a union.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE committees are so busy tending to business they haven't time to meet and discuss it, which also establishes a precedent.

COLONEL SELLERS is arranging to take the part of a regular Santa Claus.

THE COMMISSION on Industrial Relations proposes to investigate all of the foundations. This will be not only an inspection of the mouth of the gift horse, but a careful scientific study of each and every dental cavity.

THE OLD FASHIONED MAN, it is related, who used to wear a muffler, now has a son who won't wear one on his automobile.

A KANSAS JOURNALIST has solved the problem. He says Lord Kitchener thought he was talking to T. E. Lawrence instead of Irvin S. Cobb.

THE TROUBLE with most kidney-custodifying cures is that they aren't formulated for a man with a healthy appetite.

THEY never got too high for the Fellers, says Gilmore—not too old.

PAT for your Christmas shopping early.

"I only ask you for a dime, sir. I wouldn't let you give me a cent more than that."

"What? You wouldn't accept a quarter if I were to offer it to you?"

"No, sir."

"You're a queer sort. Why not?"

"In times like these, sir, I think it's every man's duty to make his neighbor's burdens as light as possible. Personally I'm doing without a number of little comforts I used to enjoy. Ah! Thank you, sir. I was sure you'd understand!"—Paul Thos., 10, Birmingham Age-Herald.

SOLOS
by the
Second Fiddle.

A ND now the time is drawing near of many contributions of rippling wit and humor rare concerning resolutions.

We start upon another year with firm determinations of putting over our full share. Thus clinching pay and rations.

THE ENGLISH and the Scar in Scarborough and the German raiders left it there.

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TALKS ON THRIFT

SUCCESS OF AVERAGE PEOPLE. "What you want to know now is to cut down your expenses and live within your income." "I would give all the ledgerman of finance and financiering for the old, hoary maxim, 'Live within your income'!"—Samuel J. Tilden.

The following "short and simple arnals of the poor" who become richer are set down here not because they are starting stories of success, but just because they are such examples as the average person of ambition can hope to emulate successfully. We cannot all become enormously rich, but it is possible for most of us to acquire a competence if we go about it in the right way.

Back in the eighties, a young man in northern New York state took Horace Greeley's advice and went West to grow up with the country. He settled in what is now a prosperous state in the Northwest, taking up there a free government homestead on the prairies. As the country became more settled, land values rose. Soon there was agitation for the establishment of a state agricultural college in the nearby county seat. In the meantime, the young man had sold his farm at a profit and with some of the money went to Chicago to take a course in pharmacy. He returned just in time to secure a position on the faculty of the new agricultural college. He is now head of a department there and has become comfortably well off by saving from his income and investing in farms and farm mortgages in his neighborhood.

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Germany's extraordinary isolation in both the military and commercial relations of the empire has been fully noted in the daily press, and much has been made of the fact that she usually imports about a third of the wheat she uses, and all of certain textile materials, such as raw cotton and silk. It has been confidently predicted that the war will result in the ruin of her foreign trade and the utter prostration of her industries; while it seems to be assumed, without much evidence of any careful study of the situation, that in the matter of food supplies particularly, the war will quickly lead to scarcity, if not to wide-spread hardships, from actual lack of food.

But this notion, while it has something to support it, fails to grasp the fact that Germany can support herself on her home resources for fully a year, and that this capacity for self-support in the face of a universal embargo has a very high military value. It is probably true that long before next August, if the war were to last as long as that, the people of Germany would be put to many shifts from their usual mode of living. They might, for instance, have to learn to eat a greater part of their annual production of some two billion bushels of potatoes which are now mostly used in the production of industrial alcohol. In the absence of imports of raw cotton, they would undoubtedly have to economize on stockings, underwear, and shirts. But they could very well do these things, and many others that necessarily might require, without any real bodily suffering. The South, in our Civil war, cheerfully endured privations much greater than any of a material sort likely to afflict the German people in the course of a year's war.

Lighting equipment. At present the Germans are counting on their superior equipment to enable them to hold back the western allies while Germany and Austria prosecute their campaign against Russia. The French and British

have had to fight to time to complete the equipment of their armies.

Asbestos. The first use of asbestos was in the manufacture of crematory robes for the ancient Romans.

The Rhine. The Rhine is only 940 miles long, but drains a territory nearly double the area of Texas.

Let the Herald want as do your work.

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TAKE SALTS TO FLUSH KIDNEYS

ELL Less Meat If You Feel Backache or Have Bladder Trouble.

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